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THE HON. SRI S. S. RAMASAMY PADAYACHI :—" (a) & (b) The road from Jayamkonda Cholapuram to Mathur Railway station consists of two bits—one forming part of Jayankondan–Sendurai road which is metalled and the other from Variyankaval to Mathur Railway station which is an unmetalled one. There is no proposal to metal the latter portion of the road."

Child-welfare centres

* 1053 *Q.*—SRI K. ARANGANATHAN : Will the Hon. the Minister for Health be pleased to state the number of labour cases attended to in child-welfare centres in the State during the year 1953–54?

THE HON SRI A. B. SHETTY :—

"(1) Number of cases attended to in all the districts during the year 1953	35,020
(2) Number attended to in all the municipalities including Madras City during the year 1953 –	172,027
Total	207,047"

SRI K. ARANGANATHAN :—" Sir, most of the child-welfare centres are located in the interior parts of the rural areas and they are not accessible to women health officers. The result is that they are camping in a place far away from these centres and are recording a false or wrong statement that they have visited these centres. Whether the Government are aware of it and if so, what action are they going to take in the matter? "

THE HON. SRI A. B. SHETTY :—" Sir, these child-welfare centres are opened by local bodies wherever there is need for them."

SRI T. C. NARAYANAN NAMBIAR :—" May I know from the Hon. Minister for Public Health, the scope and function of these child-welfare centres. Whether they are restricted to maternity cases and, if so, will the Government be pleased to extend it so as to embrace the children of the streets and the lanes who are placed in an unfortunate position for various social reasons? "

THE HON. SRI A. B. SHETTY :—" Ante-natal work is done at these maternity centres. Women are given advice and treatment if necessary. Children are also attended to. Skimmed milk, multi-vitamin tablets, shark-liver oil, etc., are given free at many of these centres."

SRI S. C. C. ANTHONY PILLAI :—" Even in a city like Madras only 50 per cent of the births are attended to by child-welfare centres and a very large number of children die for lack of milk. Will the Government come forward to give financial assistance to municipalities? "

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THE HON. SRI A. B. SHETTY :—" The Government are giving one-fourth maintenance grant to these maternity and child-welfare centres. Supplementary food articles—most of them gifts from the UNICEF—are distributed by these centres."

SRI K. VINAYAKAM :—" The Hon. Minister was pleased to give information regarding the number of labour cases attended to in child-welfare centres. Have the Government got in their possession information relating to the number of cases that were never brought to such centres and how does the percentage of such cases compare with the total births? "

THE HON. SRI A. B. SHETTY :—" Figures given by me do not include cases brought to the maternity hospitals and private maternity homes. There might be a large number of cases of the kind mentioned by the hon. Member."

SRI C. KANDASWAMY :—" In spite of the fact that only about 35,000 maternity cases have been treated in these centres in rural areas and nearly four times the number in urban areas, the Government are not opening more such centres in the rural areas. Will the Government open more in rural areas? "

THE HON. SRI A. B. SHETTY :—" We are having at present 430 maternity and child-welfare centres and 54 maternity blocks. It is the responsibility of the local bodies to provide such centres and Government give help whenever necessary."

Bridge across the Cauvery river near Keelayur

* 1054 *Q.*—SRI M. P. SUBRAMANYAM (on behalf of Sri K. R. Sambandam) : Will the Hon. the Minister for Agriculture be pleased to state whether the Government have any proposal to construct a bridge across the Cauvery river near Keelayur, Sembanarkoil firka, connecting Kaveripattinam road and Keelayur road in Mayuram taluk, Tanjore district?

THE HON. SRI M. BHAKTAVATSALAM :—" No, Sir.

The Government have however sanctioned the construction of a bridge across the river Cauvery on the Aruppattinatham village road near Melaiyur village in Mayuram taluk to benefit the surrounding villages, including Keelayur."

Increments to Harijan Welfare school teachers in Malabar

* 1055 *Q.*—SRI E. T. KUNHAN : Will the Hon. the Minister for Religious Endowments and Transport be pleased to state—

(*a*) whether teachers employed in Labour Welfare schools in Malabar have been granted increments in their scales of pay for the years 1948–1954; and

(*b*) if not, the reasons therefor?